INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

FLP 165

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 21 NOV 50

SUBJECT Salt Plants at Kreka, Ulcinj, Pag, and Ston

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. 25X1A [redacted]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1X

[redacted]

1. The Kreka-Simin Han salt plant (Simeon's Inn) near Tuzla is the largest salt plant in Yugoslavia. It produces kitchen salt which is obtained by the evaporation of salted water pumped from the earth. Of the four salt plants existing in Yugoslavia, the salt plant at Kreka is the only one where the salt is obtained in the above described manner. In the other three salt plants, Ulcinj, Pag, and Ston, the salt is obtained by evaporation of sea water.

2. Today, part of the salt plant has been mechanized. From the trimming machine the salt is carried on a large belt to the drying machine, where it is dryed with dry air. Thus, the drying process is shortened to two hours. The dry salt is conducted through a special funnel opened in the floor, to the packing room where it is put in sacks and transported all over the country. In spite of the modernization most of the pans are still directly heated in the old fashioned way.

3. In 1944 half of the enterprise was burned. However, by 1945 the salt mine was restored to full capacity. In 1948 work was begun on a pit for the mining of solid salt in Tusnje, near Tuzla. At about four hundred meters underground geologists have discovered the presence of two major blocks of solid salt.

4. On 10 December 1949 Rudolf Zamboni was appointed director of the Kreka-Simin Han salt plant. Zamboni was formerly the head of the production department. The former director of the Kreka-Simin Han plant was Stepan Hajster. Vilim Spicer was appointed chief engineer of the plant. He took the place of Dimitrije Djuranovic. Spicer was formerly employed in the Zorka factory in Sabac.

5. The salt plants of Ulcinj, Pag, and Ston produce salt from sea water, contained in open basins, and evaporated by the action of the sun. The heat of the sun can be used only from May to September during each year.

6. The salt plant at Ulcinj is the newest and largest of the sea salt plants of Yugoslavia. Its surface (including the Lake Zogajsko surface) is about 840 hectares. This lake water is used partially for evaporation. This plant is a copy of the large Italian salt plant, Margherita di Savoia, which uses the system of large pools for crystallization, and a single yearly

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collection of salt.

7. The sea water used by the Ulcinj plant to date had a small percentage of salt because of a strong addition of common water coming from the Bojana River, the Milena Canal, and the surrounding sources. The percentage of salt in this part of the Adriatic is 3.7 percent. In order to obtain sea water containing a higher percentage of salt, a tunnel 200 meters long is being constructed through Cape Korana.

8. The salt plant at Pag, located on the Island of Pag, is the oldest of the Yugoslav salt plants and has the greatest salt production per square meter. It has a surface of 170 hectares. The disposition of the pools and the process of production is similar to those applied in the South Seas. However, on Pag the salt is collected two or three times in a season if the weather is favorable. Last year major repairs of the pools were undertaken in order to increase the capacity of the plant. New partitions constructed in the pools used in the initial evaporation have lowered the level of the water. Consequently, after the initial evaporation, the water now has eight percent salt, whereas its previous percentage was barely four. This has shortened considerably the whole process, and the capacity of the plant has gained 30 percent. During this year major works have been undertaken in order to mechanize the plant. The tracks of a small railroad have been laid to connect the pools with the main storehouses in Pag. The transportation of salt from the salt yards to the storehouses will thereby become much easier and faster.

9. The salt plant at Ston is the smallest of the Yugoslav salt plants; its surface being only 43 hectares. The system of production is the same as that of Pag. The crystallization pools are partly paved with stones, partly covered with asphalt, which permits the collection of salt several times during a season.

25X1C [redacted] Comment: The problem of salt is very important in Yugoslavia for alimentation and industrial purposes. Increasing attention is given to the study of this problem with the aim to free the nation from any import of salt from abroad. For the time being Yugoslavia is still compelled to import salt. One of the reasons for this is that the administration of the four plants is not unified. The plants do not collaborate, and at the present time they suffer from a shortage of skilled workers.